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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Dear Mr. Duncan:

I have been asked to reply to your letter to Vice President Bush about Raoul Wallenberg.

As you may know, in October 1981 President Reagan signed a bill which made Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United States. Making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American was an important symbolic act. It let the entire world know how much we admire Raoul Wallenberg's courage, how much are inspired by his dedication to humanity and humanitarian principles, and how much we deplore his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Union.

At the same time, the State Department made the Soviet Government formally and officially aware of our continued dedication to finding out the truth about Raoul Wallenberg's fate. To date, we have not received a response from the Soviet Government, but we shall continue in our effort to resolve the tragic mystery of Wallenberg's fate until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification.

The Department of State has pressed this effort both on a bilateral basis and at international forums, such as the Madrid CSCE meeting Conference in Madrid and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In this regard, last year our representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Mr. Michael Novak, urged the Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gesture, which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely, a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else, in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time." At this year's session of the Commission, on February 22, Alternate Representative Walter Berns again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed, "one of the genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits." Mr. Berns suggested that the U.N. Human Rights Commission's working group on disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case "involving the most famous of all disappeared persons."

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We have also continued to work closely with the Government of Sweden to try to confirm reports that have come to light about Wallenberg. To date, we have been unable to confirm any of the reports suggesting that Wallenberg might still be alive. We intend to continue to cooperate fully with the Government of Sweden and all other interested parties in a persistent effort to obtain information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

On August 3 Edward J. Derwinski, Counselor of the State Department, testified in Congress on the subject of Raoul Wallenberg. As he stated on that occasion, "Our position has remained consistent and clear. Until the Soviets provide a full clarification of Wallenberg's fate, the United States will not accept as final the Soviet assurances that Wallenberg died in 1947...I can assure you categorically that this matter will be raised again in every appropriate forum."

I hope the above information provides some idea of the various avenues currently being pursued by this Administration in its efforts to resolve the mystery surrounding the case of Raoul Wallenberg.

If we can be of assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

James F. Schumaker
Officer-in-Charge
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